



Photo by Damien Bohannon

## Rocket scientist

Sharon Sullivan, daughter of Edward Sullivan from the Department of Energy, assembles a rocket at Rocket Camp held at the Youth Center. The week-long class for children under 12 years old, taught them about space and the solar system and they built and launched a small rocket. The day ended with a presentation of "Rocket Scientist" certificates to the children.

## Airmen honor President Reagan's memory

**BY DR. JAMES ROCHE**  
Secretary of the Air Force

**WASHINGTON (AFMCNS)**—Throughout last week, Americans and people from around the world celebrated the memory, and recognized the achievements, of our former commander-in-chief, President Ronald Reagan.

He became the president of the United States at a very critical juncture in our national consciousness. President Reagan will always be remembered for leading the charge to significantly reduce nuclear weapons and ending the Cold War with the dissolution of communism throughout eastern Europe and the former Soviet socialist republics.

We witnessed a strong outpouring of remembrance from the world, our nation, and the men and women of the U.S. military. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and I are proud of all our Airmen for their impressive tribute to President Reagan.

We're especially grateful to the Airmen who directly participated as part of the funeral cortege. Air Force color guards, honor guards, guards of honor, cordon escorts and pallbearers always displayed a quiet, proud professionalism.

The 89th Airlift Wing, the 11th Wing, the U.S. Air Force Band, the Singing Sergeants, and cadets from the Air Force Academy all played key roles throughout the events, as did our F-15E aircrews and maintainers who provided the fly-over during the processional.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West performed a stirring musical tribute at the burial—and there were many more Airmen behind the scenes who also shined and represented the Air Force and our great nation with professionalism and dignity.

The U.S. Air Force proudly gave its final salute to the "great communicator," who was truly a "great leader."

Thank you for your service last week. Well done.

## 51 earn technical, master sergeant promotions

The Air Force selected 30 out of 152 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant and 21 staff sergeants out of 96 eligible for promotion to technical sergeant at Kirtland AFB. Both selection rates are slightly lower than the Air Force rate.

**The entire promotion lists for Kirtland AFB selectees is on Page 10.**

Air Force officials selected 6,217 of 23,956 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant, a 25.95-percent selection rate; and 9,114 of 42,248 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant, a 21.57-percent selection rate.

The final tally will increase as Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas, officials receive test scores for Airmen currently deployed. Each of those Airmen has 30 to 60 days to test after he or she returns home.

"We have roughly 3,000 warriors who haven't tested yet because they've

been deployed," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley, enlisted promotions branch chief at the center. "They will be allowed to test when they return, and we'll automatically consider them for promotion. We do this as quickly as possible and announce supplemental promotions on a monthly basis until everyone has been considered."

The master sergeant selection rate rose .39 percentage points from last year, while this year's technical sergeant rate dropped .32 percentage points from last year.

"This year has proven to be another banner year in terms of the number of people who have been able to earn promotions," Chief Billingsley said. "The Air Force had predicted we'd see rates start to stabilize and that's what is happening here."

### PROMOTIONS

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## Housing occupancy getting on track

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, made a decision this week to provide Air Force utilities to the new houses under construction at Kirtland AFB.

Kirtland Family Housing is now in the process of revising schedules and anticipates residents will begin moving into the new homes as early as October 2004.

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**205**  
**TEAM**  
**KIRTLAND**  
**members**  
**are**  
**deployed**  
**in 16**  
**locations**

**Force**  
**Protection**  
**Condition**  
**ALPHA**

**Straight**  
**Talk**  
**853-4636**